

▲

[illegible]

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED WITH  
REQUEST FOR FILING A DIVISIONAL APPLICATION**

The present paper is submitted concurrently with a Request for Filing a Divisional Application.  
Please enter the following amendment.

## AMENDMENT

## In the Specification

At page 1, line 1, immediately after ‘application,’ insert --is a divisional application of USSN 08/833,379 filed April 4, 1997. USSN 08/833,379--. Immediately after ‘to,’ insert --then--.

## In the Claims

Cancel Claims 2, 3, and 4.

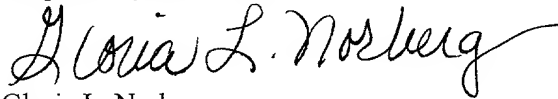
REMARKS

Claims 1, and 5-94 are pending.

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Filing a Divisional Application.

Consideration and an early indication of the allowability of the claims are earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicants' representative earnestly requests a telephone conference at (512) 499-6269.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria L. Norberg  
Reg. No. 36,706

Agent for Applicants

Date: April 20, 2001

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.  
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 499-6200